



**Charley's Strays, Inc.**

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Limestone, September, 2018

Dear Friends,

I found the above photo in the news. Not only the West Coast has to deal with many huge fires, but so does Australia. The photo shows an Aussie fireman giving a Koala much needed water to drink. Notice how the little guy is putting his paw on the fireman's hand. It's so sad what's going on, with the fires and the floods, Hurricane Florence in North and South Carolina, Tsunamis and terrible storms in Japan. And the poor animals everywhere getting hurt and killed. I don't even want to think about it. With the huge climate change I doubt it's getting any better. When I hear or read the daily news about stabbings, killings, rapes and God knows what else, the one big question comes to mind: What are these nut cases doing to animals if they have so little respect for human lives? It's a good thing that we don't know. I imagine no one could sleep anymore without nightmares, if we would know. It really is a sad, sad world we are living in.

Everything is fine at the Shelter. Everyone there seems to be happy enough. I had several email requests about dogs, but nothing came of it. One person was very interested in one of our dogs, but after she told me that he would be "crated" during her 8 hour workday, I told the lady that I did not think that was fair to any dog. Needless to say, we kept the dog. Eight hours, plus the drive back and forth to work, plus the errands one has to run after work, what kind of life is that for a dog? I understand that some dogs are set to destroy an apartment if left alone, but I think at least one room with a child gate in front should do the trick. I never in my 50 years of caring for dogs have crated a single one. Other than chewing shoes and cables when they were young, none of them ever actually destroyed anything. A few scratches in a door, or a chewed chair leg, but all that can be repaired.

More good news came in form of several checks to be used for our taxes, and I just paid them to the Town of Benton! Thank you so much to the four ladies who mailed an extra amount to pay for them. Jean Tillson painted the beautiful picture below, and asked for a

donation to help pay the taxes for Charley's Strays. That along with the matching amount from her workplace, and the checks from the other ladies took care of this year's bill. Thank you so much to all of you!

Here is a photo of Jean's painting:



What a beautiful piece of art!

And many more special people did special things for our Shelter, whether with heating-oil help, packages with goodies and toys for our animals, or the much needed donations to keep us going.

Al Smith, Belmont  
Anne Tappan, Cambridge  
Belfast Polo Club, Northport  
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
Erik Jorgensen, E. Boston  
Grace Kiley, N. Andover  
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
Irma Simon, China  
Joe D'Allesandro, Tufonboro  
Joseph Blake, New Bedford

Joseph Blake, New Bedford  
Josephine Smith, Woburn  
Judy Rohweder, Northport  
Kellee Lowney, New Bedford  
Larry & Arlene Hayes  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Lynn Frischmann, Los Gatos  
Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose  
Michael Kane, Greenwood

Nancy Capone, Wakefield  
Pat Ingersoll  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Ralph & Jean Catignani  
Rancourt Family,  
Lebanon  
Ruth Giusti, Titusville  
Steve Martin, Augusta  
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Nancy Brown also mailed us a donation in honor of her niece's Becca's birthday.

Bonnie Buckmore has been busy emptying the donation boxes she has put up all over town, and also has asked Loyal Biscuit to donate something for the fundraiser, which will be most likely a basket. More about that next month.

Since I started late with mailing out tickets for the fundraiser, I will add another month to mailing them, so you will have plenty more chances of winning a prize. ☺

That pretty well covers the news of September from my end, and here is Mary's Cat Report: By the way, Mary's "transported elsewhere" mice found their way 250 miles to the north. They probably hitched a ride with a trucker, and now live in Jim's garage. How do I know? Yesterday he was going to eat a peanut butter cracker he had left in there the day before, when he noticed that the bottom half had been nibbled away. So, Mary, it's not as warm in Jim's garage as it is in your house, but there are no cats to scare the heck out of the poor mice, and I promise Jim will keep feeding them peanut butter crackers.

*Mary Gabriele, Eric, Ted and Jim*

## CAT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

Again, not much news in cat land. Our guys and gals seem to be doing well and keeping busy, as there are still warm enough days for porch time, plus watching leaves falling past the windows and chasing bugs that've moved indoors. A couple mice moved in, too, seeking warmer quarters before winter; those I live-trapped and transported elsewhere.

Tang has officially joined both the downstairs and the upstairs group now, and gets along both places. Daytime is for downstairs where he and his lady friend get canned-food snacks twice a day; upstairs, he sleeps on or near my pillow and purrs us to sleep. Several other cats have shared my bed for years and a couple more have recently decided it looks comfortable, so some nights we get a bit crowded.

This month Bonnie Buckmore again brought food, this time a donation from Loyal Biscuit, and Pepper Charles and Shirley continued their gifts. We've had coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Kim Doherty, Irma Simon and Al Smith. Many thanks to them, and to all the rest of you who are helping animals